



MOUNTAIN CLIMBER



Volume 2, Issue 2

FORT DRUM

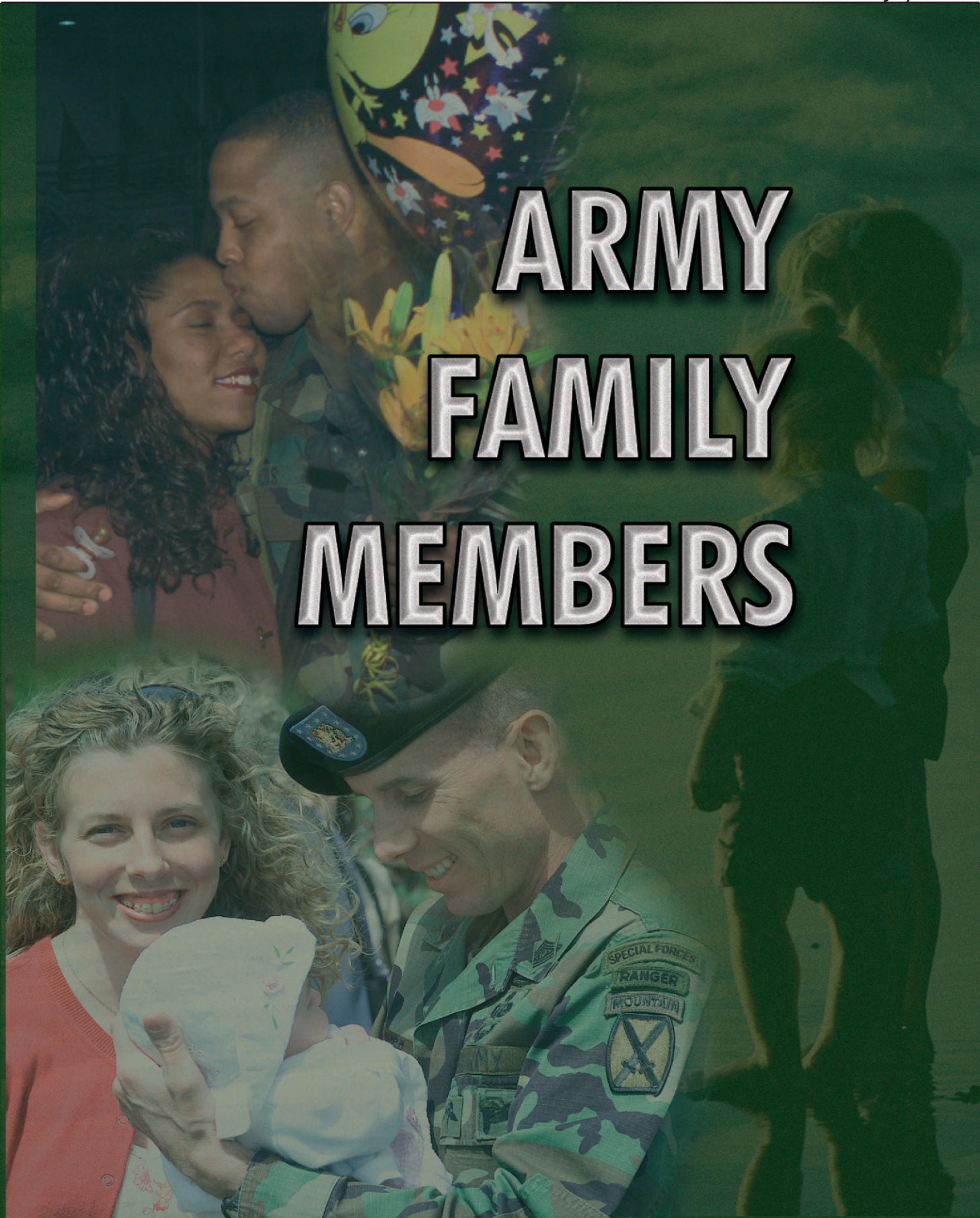
July 2003

FORT DRUM EDUCATION CENTER

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ARMY FAMILY MEMBERS



On The Education Services Officer's Desk

The
Army Education
Center
at the
McEwen Library and
Education Complex

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday

1245-1600

(315) 772-6878



The Fort Drum
Education Center
Mountain Climber

Garrison Commander
COL Emory R. Helton

Director, Directorate of
Plans,
Training and
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Most soldiers, with a few exceptions, are very aware that the Education Center exists for their benefit and that they can use these services when needed. The audience that the Education Center fails to reach most often is family members and DoD civilians. In this issue of the Mountain Climber, we are focusing on the family members.

I meet family members in various places throughout the local area. Just recently, I discovered that the receptionist at my dentist's office is a family member and attending college at the present time. Usually when these folks find out that I work at the Education Center, they start asking questions. I constantly strive to make family members aware of the services available to them. It never fails to amaze me how many are surprised to discover that courses are available to take on post or that they too can use the services of Army Education Counselors. Yes, you read this correctly. When family members see an Army Education



Counselor, this does not mean that they will receive tuition assistance from the Army as the soldiers do. It does mean that they can receive some objective information about college degrees, assistance with planning them, information on shortcuts to degrees, and some possible fits for financial aid options. Sometimes, seeing an Army Education Counselor will open eyes to other, and sometimes more fitting, options for college.

The Fort Drum Education Center advertises newsworthy items for family members as well as soldiers. Besides in the Mountain Climber, family members may find information of interest in The Mountaineer, the Command email newsletter that is located on the Fort Drum Intranet once weekly. The Education Center also provides information to family members

through the Welcome packets at ACS. Twice a year, usually in May and November, the Fort Drum Education Center hosts a fair for the entire Fort Drum community. The theme of the fair held in May is financial aid, providing information to the community on financial aid through representatives from local banks, local organizations, colleges, the Veterans' Administration, and the Education Center. The theme for the fair in November is American Education Week, providing the community with information from local and other colleges, the Education Center and officer programs to assist in making educational choices.

Family members, please be sure to read local publications, take advantage of the Education Center fairs and visit an Army Education Counselor to check out your options. You may be glad that you took the extra time to do so!

Carla K. Ortiz
Education Services Officer



Family members find a resource in the Multi-Use Learning Facility

Your Multi-Use Learning Facility (MLF) is located in Room 141 of the Army Education Center. This facility is open 7 days a week and supports all soldiers, retirees, adult family members, and DoD civilians. Some of the many services offered include:

- 24 Internet-accessible computers.
- Electronic library.
- Subject study guides for CLEP, DSST, and EXCELSIOR exams.
- Test scheduling, preparation, and study resources.
- Free practice exams.
- Enroll in/work on Army Correspondence Courses.
- Improve your typing skills.
- Study Spanish on CD-ROM.
- Improve your math, English, and speed-reading skills.
- Army Knowledge Online (AKO)

Need help deciding on a future career or college major? Try one of the following programs: Discover, Guidance Information System, Interest Inventories, or Job Skills Education Program. Want to learn to type or increase your speed? Try the Typing Tutorial. Do you need to prepare a report/document? Use our Microsoft programs such as Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. Are you struggling with math? Try Math Blaster and Math Advantage. Want to be more competitive when applying for college admission? Try Kaplan ACT and Kaplan SAT.

The MLF staff can assist soldiers and family members with CLEP

(College Level Examination Program), DSST (Dantes Subject Standardized Test), and ECE (Excelsior College Examinations). We have Fact Sheets or Study Guides on all tests. The student fact sheet explains what is tested and gives some recommended study materials or publications. We can let the patron know which books are available in the library for check out or what resources they can use in the MLF to help them prepare for the test. The MLF has a video tape series that teaches the following subjects: Natural Science, Humanities, Social Science and History, Mathematics, English Composition, US History I, US History II, American Government, College Algebra, and General Biology.

DANTES Exams are free to military; however, civilians must pay by money order to Chauncey Group International. DSST costs \$35.00 and CLEP \$56.00. ECE exams are not available for civilians. All actual exams scheduled for military must be preceded by a practice test with a resulting score of 70% or better. There is a waiting period of six months for retakes of a failed exam. Results will be available in 4-6 weeks.

DANTES Practice Tests are free to both military and civilians. These tests can predict the success of the client for the actual exams. Results are usually available following the exam.

GT improvement is an area where soldiers can be assisted. The books, videos, computer programs, and Internet programs are also available to family members who want to enhance their English, Math, and Reading skills.

Need financial aid for college? MLF staff can assist with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) over the Internet, including help with finding the Federal School code. We can assist with general information on colleges with books and the Internet. Some of the references we have are: Occupational Outlook Handbook, College Handbook, College Money Handbook, Scholarships Grants & Prizes, 2 Year Colleges, 4 Year Colleges, ACE Guide, SOCAD-2, SOCAD-4, SOCAD Credit Evaluation Supplement, and DANTES Program Handbooks.

Is an overseas tour in your future? Head Start cassettes are available for the following languages: Korean, Turkish, Japanese, Arabic, Saudi-Arabic, Italian, Latin America, and French.

Want to stay in touch with your spouse during deployment, via email? Family members can sign up for an Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account, the only email account soldiers can use while deployed. Come in and ask the staff how to enroll.

If you need assistance not mentioned in this article, visit the MLF in Room 141 of the Education Center and let the staff know - we'll do our best to assist you. For your convenience, we are open seven days a week. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 0900-2130, and Friday-Sunday from 0900-1745. On weekends we close daily from 1200-1300. Please come at your convenience - no appointment is required. For further information, call Mr. Jim Morrow at 772-9993.

Kerry L. Parker
Army Guidance Counselor



College While Your Sponsor Serves

Continuing education is an integral component of the Army Well-Being Strategic Plan. Guidance counselors at the Army Education Center are available to assist you in providing support, suggestions, and advice on ways to pursue your education goals.

Misconceptions

MISCONCEPTION 1: College is Only for Bright People

College students don't need to be "gifted", superior, or endowed with unusual mental abilities. Most college graduates are perfectly ordinary people in terms of memory, attention span, arithmetical understanding, comprehension of concepts and other mental abilities.

MISCONCEPTION 2: You Have to Be Young to Go to College

If you are 25 years or older you'll have plenty of companionship. School is full of other adults. What you're doing is realistically working toward your academic goals and vocational dreams.



Getting Your GED or High School Equivalency Diploma

One of the first questions you may ask yourself is how do I get started? It is never too late to work toward your General Educational Development (GED) tests or High School Equivalency. A starting point may be to see what you already know.

The Education Center can help you with a practice test. The GED consists of language arts (writing & reading), math, social studies, and natural science. Service members and their adult family members can take the practice test for free. You will need to come to Bldg. P4300 to make an appointment for the test. The practice exam can be given in parts and not all at once. The practice exam can show you what areas you need to study. Now that we have discovered your strong subjects or areas you need to improve, programs can be identified to help you accomplish your goal.

The Education Center has a daytime class called Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP) that family members are welcome

to attend on a space available basis. BSEP can provide instruction in basic Math and English skills. The course is 3 hours a day (mornings or afternoons), 5 days a week and runs for 3 weeks. Prior arrangement for attending this class would be made at the Education Center. The Multi-Use Learning Facility in RM 141 has a series of videotapes and workbooks available to study. You can use this material at your own pace. The MLF is open evenings and weekends.

New York State through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and Army Community Services (ACS) provides free GED Prep classes right here on post. All classes are open to service members and their family members. The course runs on a continual basis and entry into the classes can be anytime. For more information on this program please contact ACS in Bldg. P4330 or call 772-6799. You also can contact the NY Adult Education Department for information concerning GED prep classes held in the off-post community at 779-7220. All classes are free.

So, you're not a good test taker. The thought of having your future education and employment depend on a multiple choice test sends fear

through you. Alternatives are available to complete your High School Equivalency Diploma. Jefferson Community College, through the Office of Higher Education, has established requirements for earning a GED by successfully completing 24 college credits. As a family member you would be charged the in-state tuition rate for enrolling in these courses. The courses must be a specific credit distribution of the following:

- Six credits in English language arts, including writing, speaking and reading (literature).
- Six credits in mathematics.
- Three credits in natural science.
- Three credits in social science.
- Three credits in humanities.
- Three credits in career and technical education and/or foreign language.

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education System (DANTES) has information on colleges that provide these programs and their costs for High School Completion around the country. For more information on taking classes with colleges to complete your GED please visit your Guidance Counselor at the Army Education Center.

English as a Second Language (ESL) or English for Speakers of

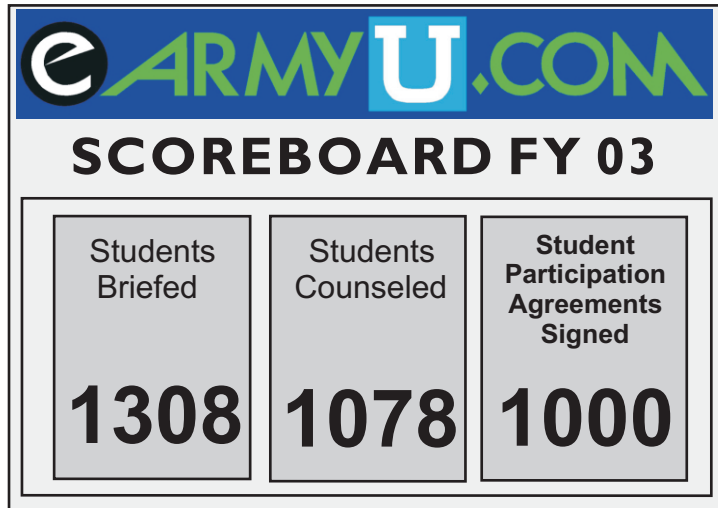
Other Languages (ESOL)

Apreda Ingles -- Lernen sie English !! Need to work on developing those English skills to improve educational and job opportunities? Army Community Services (ACS) provides classes here on post. The program is open to anyone and runs continually on Monday & Wednesday evenings 1800-2100 at T-24 on old post.

The Work Place at Jefferson Community College offers ESOL classes during the mornings Tuesdays and Thursdays 0900-1200 at the Watertown campus. There is also a home-based program for

intermediate and advanced students. In the home based course, you would watch TV, receive workbooks, and talk to your tutor over the phone. All ESOL classes are free. Please contact Penny Guyette, ACS, at 772-6799 for more information on English classes.

Les Barbour
Army Guidance Counselor



DANTES and the Army Family Member

One of DANTES' primary missions is to sponsor a wide range of voluntary education programs for active duty military personnel, National Guard, Reserve Personnel, U.S. Coast Guard, and other designated agencies and client groups, to include adult military family members. (Adult meaning "spouses and college age children". High school or younger children are not eligible; and should refer to their school guidance counselor for assistance).

DANTES voluntary education programs include: Certification, Distance Learning, Examinations, Troops to Teachers - as well as reference publications and links to related websites. Detailed information about programs is available at the DANTES website: <http://www.DANTES.doded.mil>.

The following examination programs are provided to DANTES Test Centers under contract with various testing agencies: High School equivalency tests, tests for college credit, undergraduate admissions tests, graduate admissions tests, certification, guidance, and interest tests.

Eligibility to test through the DANTES Testing Program on a funded or unfunded basis is determined by several factors: type of military identification card, individual testing program policy regarding civilian test administrations, geographic location of the DANTES Test Center, and conflict of interest situations.

Family member eligibility for unfunded testing (examinee pays) at

DANTES Test Centers is as follows:

CLEP - YES, both in CONUS and overseas. Generals/Subjects. Fee: \$56 by check or money order in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank on day of exam. Practice exam: free (not mandatory, but strongly recommended).

DSST - YES, both in CONUS and overseas. Fee: \$35 by credit card (Visa/ MasterCard/ American Express), certified check or money order in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank on day of exam. Practice exam: free (not mandatory, but strongly recommended).

ECE - NO, in CONUS, overseas on a space-available basis. Fees vary.

GED - YES, overseas only. Fee \$39. (Family members at Fort Drum may use free study materials and practice exams at the Education Center; but go through Army Community Service (ACS) for GED classes and the actual test).

ACT - NO, unless a valid exception. Fee: \$25, plus \$16 surcharge outside U.S. Valid exceptions are: 1) civilians applying for military-sponsored educational programs and schools (ie. ROTC or Service Academy) when deadlines for these programs and schools cannot be met by testing on the next or future schedule National ACT test dates, or, 2) military family members who, for an unavoidable reason, may have missed a National ACT test date. Overseas DODDS students must have a statement from the DODDS principal indicating why they could not test at the DODDS Test Center.

SAT - overseas only, and on an exception basis only. Fee \$43, plus \$17 surcharge

GRE - General exams NO - are not currently given at DANTES Test Centers. Subject exams - NO, unless a national test center is more than 170 miles away and DANTES approves a waiver. Fee: \$130 CONUS, \$150 overseas.

GMAT - NO, are not currently given at DANTES Test Centers. Fee: \$200, effective 1 August 2002 at Prometric test centers.

PRAXIS - NO, in CONUS, overseas on a space-available basis. Fees vary.

LSAT - NO, in CONUS, overseas on a space-available basis. Fees vary.

The address of the nearest national test center is:

PROMETRIC
212 E. Manilus Street
East Syracuse NY 13057
Phone: (315)-433-9038

Certification Program Examinations may be given on a space-available basis: varies by examination. Go to DANTES website www.doded.mil and link to "Certification Programs" calendar for specific exam requirements; then see an Education Counselor.

Marian Weisz
Army Guidance Counselor and
DANTES Test Control Officer

"College While Your Sponsor Serves".....
Continued from page 2

MISCONCEPTION 3: You Have to Have a Lot of Free Time to Go to College

This misconception is based on the familiar image of the full-time college student - an out-of-date, traditional image. It's best when attending college part-time to take only two or three classes. If the class schedule can be arranged in terms of your work or family responsibilities, you can find times and places to study.

MISCONCEPTION 4: It Takes a Lot of Money to Go to College

It's true that there are basic costs, such as enrollment fees, tuition and textbooks. There are scholarships, grants and loans available to most students. Additionally, the State of New York's Education Law states that a spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States stationed in this state, whether or not a resident of this state, shall be charged the tuition rate for residents as approved by the state university trustees. Paying in-state rates will lessen the cost dramatically, and with financial aid may put part-time attendance within range of your budget.

MISCONCEPTION 5: You'll be Neglecting Your Children If You Go to College

Thousands of parents attend college and on the whole are *better* parents as a result of their college experience. They have more to give their children because their own mental and emotional needs are nurtured. They provide also inspiring role models. You won't be slighting them by seeking higher education. It's more likely that you'll be opening a pathway.

MISCONCEPTION 6: College Graduates Don't Really Earn That Much More than Non-College Graduates

While a high school level of education is not the only road to financial success, the average college graduate earns about twice as much money per year than the average high school graduate.

Diane Smith
Army Guidance Counselor



SUNY COLLEGES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Military family members, as well as their sponsors, face numerous challenges in completing their college degrees: frequent relocation, financial issues, child care problems, and transportation difficulties.

While there is no easy fix for any of these problems, there are some opportunities and options available that have been designed to make earning a degree easier.

When a service person is assigned to Fort Drum, both the service person and family member(s) are considered in-state residents for tuition purposes.

This fact alone keeps tuition costs down tremendously.

With regard to the constant relocation, members of the military, as well as their family members, can get a SOCAD

agreement from their home college that provides them with a "transfer guarantee" that they can take to the next duty station, enabling them to continue their degree with no loss of credits.

With this constant relocation, family members often look to degrees that provide more portable career choices that make finding a job in the new location easier. Some of these choices include: Nursing, Office Studies, Counseling, Business Administration and Teaching.

Jefferson Community College offers degrees in Nursing and Office Studies. SUNY Oswego offers bachelor degrees in Business Administration and Public Justice and a Master's degree in Counseling. SUNY Potsdam also offers a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Please contact the SUNY Office for a more detailed list of degree programs offered in the Fort Drum/Watertown area.

If child care and transportation are issues, soldiers and family members

have the options of earning their degree online. As more and more courses are added, the choice of on line courses and degrees continues to expand.

Our member colleges are currently offering the following degrees online:

Jefferson Community College

A.S. Business Administration
A.S. Criminal Justice
A.A. Liberal Arts
A.A., A.S., A.A.S. Individual Studies

SUNY Empire State College

B.S. Business Administration
B.S. Business Management
B.S. Marketing
B.S. Health Services Management
B.S. Human Services
B.S. Human Services Administration
B.S. Mental Health Services
B.S. Mental Health Administration

SUNY Institute of Technology

M.S. Accountancy

M.B.A. (Technology Management)
M.S. Health Services Administration

SUNY College at Oswego

B.A. Broadcasting & Mass Comm.
B.S. Vocational Teacher Prep
Certificate-Human Resources Mgmt.

Compiled by the SUNY Colleges of the
North Country Staff

BREAKING NEWS

***JCC will offer 4 weekend
classes this fall; 2 during each
8 week session.***

***The classes will follow a
Saturday - Sunday afternoon
format from 1pm to 415pm***

SEE YOUR ARMY COUNSELOR NOW !!!

Jefferson Community College Summer 2002

Jermain J. Calmese	AAS, Individual Studies
Walter S. Canales	AS, Criminal Justice
I.R. Cha	AS, Individual Studies
Jodi Ann Dickinson	AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
Ronnie Fauntleroy	AAS Individual Studies
Jill Lockhart	AS, Individual Studies
Jeremy A. Messinger	AAS, Individual Studies
Kevin Morgan	AAS, Individual Studies
Jorge P. Said	AAS, Individual Studies
Latoya Swartz	AAS, Individual Studies
Shane M. Giglio	AAS, Individual Studies
Anthony Mayuri-Robles	AAS, Individual Studies
Michael Siptrott	AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
Lisbeth C. Torre	AS, Criminal Justice
Kimarie Wright	

Fall 2002

Shari A. Beyers	AS, Mathematics & Sciences
Christina M Boston	AS, Business Administration *
Jeremy D. Brizzi III	AS, Individual Studies
Heidi M. Chouinard	AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
Joe S. Davis	AS, Individual Studies
Julene J. Figueroa	AS, Human Services *
	AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
Matthew G. Fischer	AS, Mathematics and Sciences
Diane L. Gaudette	AS, Human Services
Carolynn E. Hanschen	AS, Individual Studies
Wayne N. Johnson	AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
Candace Lee McDowell	AS, Criminal Justice
Terrell L. Morris	AAS, Individual Studies *
Aarka L. Patterson	AS, Criminal Justice
Aaron Robertson	AAS, Individual Studies
Gregory A. Sato	AS, Individual Studies
Keisha T. Smith	AAS, Individual Studies
Paul E. Souza	AAS, Individual Studies
Cindy A. Trione	AS, Individual Studies
Jason Lavon Williams	AAS, Individual Studies
Jeffrey M. Witt	AAS, Individual Studies
Billy Bonita	AAS, Individuals Studies
Nicholas J. Civello	AAS, Individual Studies*
Carlos E. Huayanay	AS, Individual Studies*

Congratulations to all our military and family member graduates of the Class of 2003

Taunika R. Huebbe
Paul Kosby
Antonio C. Robles
Jose Luis Santana

AAS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies
AS, Individual Studies

Spring 2003

Sean M. Anglehart
David J. Assing
Ryan M. Bonk
April M. Bookout
Kesha Lynnette Brown
Tekisha D. Clark
Robert J. Clark
Victor M. Colon
Anthony K. Cushenberry
Daisy D. Dudas
Scott C. Fuchs
Christopher R. Gates
Latisha A. Green
Brenda M. Greeson
Stephen R. Gurley
Marjorie Guy
David Hall
Jason C. Hardy
Erik Harkinson

AS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies
AS, Mathematics & Sciences
AS, Mathematics & Sciences
AAS, Nursing
AS, Criminal Justice
AAS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies *
AS, Individual Studies
AAS, Accounting
AS, Individual Studies *
AAS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies
AS, Criminal Justice *
AAS, Individual Studies *
AS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies
AS, Individual Studies
AAS, Computer Information Systems
AS, Business Administration
AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
AAS, Nursing
AAS, Individual Studies
AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
AAS, Individual Studies
Certificate, Office Studies
AS, Business Administration
AAS, Individual Studies
AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
AS, Mathematics & Sciences
AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
AA, Individual Studies *
AS, Business Administration
AS, Business Administration *
AS, Business Administration
AS, Individual Studies

Ronnie E. Heare
Laura A. Heppel
Kendra D. Higgins
Douglas E. Jones
Rebecca L. Karas

Jeffrey S. Koenig
Sandra M. Littlejohn
Daphne G. Marek-Meza
Peter T. Marino
Nicole J. Marsh

Bobbi B. Melvin
Todd A. Metz
Angel Marie Murray,

Becky L. Parker
Ralph S. Parlin
Michael J. Parnell
Jules R. Patterson Jr
Paula M. Perez-Sostre

Lynn K. Petrie
Darren B. Phifer
Vito P. Powers
Demetria D. Jackson Reed

Dejuan U. Roberts
Willen Rodriguez
Shuveta S. Saddler
Doris Y. Sage-El
Telisha N. Sanders
Michael J. Struble
Miriam A. Talley
Luis A. Trochez
Anthony D. Turner
Antonio Valentin Jr
Connie Jean Walker

John L. Welborn IV
Jerry D. White
Stephen B. Wilson
Susanne E. Zimmerman

AS, Business Administration *
AAS, Business Administration
AAS, Individual Studies
AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
AS, Computer Science
AS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies
AAS, Nursing
AAS, Individual Studies*
AAS, Office Technology- Medical*
AS, Individual Studies*
AAS, Individual Studies
AS, Criminal Justice
AAS, Early Childhood Development *
AA, Humanities & Social Sciences
AAS, Individual Studies
AAS, Individual Studies
AS, Business Administration

Empire State College

Ramon Almodovar
Kay Altieri
Karen Carr
Melvin Claypoole
Markee Cooper
Kathleen Forbes
Michael Franklin
Adam Fuller
Paula Gallagher
Lori Garcia
MaryBeth Green
Rebecca Hawks
Marisol Huntwork
Sonya Jordan
Ronald Martin
Shaun McMurchie
Connie Moore
Melissa Saboor
Samuel Solomon
Peter Stanghellini
Timothy Yousey
LaShonda Wise

* Awarded Honors, Recognition, or Distinction